

MINUTES
MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 23, 2010
Auditorium at MHS, Helena, Montana

In attendance were Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees members Jim Murry, Jim Utterback, Sharon Lincoln, Jack Lepley, Lee Rostad, Ed Smith, Kent Kleinkopf, Lee Rostad, Steve Lozar, Janene Caywood, George Horse Capture, Shirley Groff, Crystal Wong Shors, and Robert Morgan. Also in attendance were MHS Director Richard Sims, MHS Administrative Assistant Renee Podell, MHS Administrator Denise King, MHS Museum Program Representatives Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney and Patty Dean, MHS Outreach and Interpretation Program Manager Kirby Lambert, MHS Membership Coordinator Beth Cargo, MHS Publications Program Manager Molly Holz, MHS State Historic Preservation Program Manager Mark Baumlner, MHS Research Center Manager Molly Kruckenberg, MHS Public Relations Coordinator Tom Cook and MHS Special Projects Manager Susan Near. Also in attendance were: State Architect and Engineering Joe Triem, Betty Babcock, Shirley Herrin representing the Montana Pioneers, Helena Mayor James E. Smith, Helena City Manager Ron Alles, Dave Gallik, Martin Kidston, Montana State Senator Steve Gallus, Ron Ueland, Mainstreet Uptown Butte Director George Everett, John Decan, Martin Kidston, Pat Schlauch, Patti Keebler, Lee Holmes, Liz Baker, Tim Gaze, Mike Mergenthaler representing the Helena Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce, Pat Schlauch, President of the Northwest Rendezvous of Artists Frank Montibeller, State Representative Chuck Hunter, Morrison & Maierle Engineer Bob Glasser and Montana Heritage Commission Director Paul Reichert.

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Murry called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. George Horse Capture led the Board in prayer.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Kent Kleinkopf moved approval of the January 15, 2010 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes. Sharon Lincoln seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-Jim Murry

New Heritage Center

Jim announced the Governor's full support of the 6th and Roberts Street site for the new Heritage Center. He said it has been a long haul in getting to this point and everyone is looking forward

to moving ahead. Jim stated MHS will be starting a meaningful and official fundraising effort for the new facility. Tough economic times dictate that the only way financial help from the Legislature can be attained is by encouraging a strong by-partisan effort. By law, Jim emphasized that money has to be in hand before the project can begin. The Board joins Jim in thanking the people that have expressed so much excitement to move ahead with the facility at 6th and Roberts Street. Jim announced that Senator Steve Gallus was in attendance and he will introduce the delegation from Butte.

Senator Gallus reported that Governor Schweitzer's advice in a recent meeting was that Butte should proceed and seek funding for the creation of a Museum of Mining and Reclamation that would tell an interesting story for Butte in Butte. He clarified that his letter to Governor Schweitzer never proposed a closing of the MHS and it never proposed the relocation of employees that work at MHS. Senator Gallus said that after speaking with the Governor he feels strong that both of the projects can move forward and move forward together. He asked for the Board's assistance in helping Butte build a museum so they can tell their story for Montana. Ron Ueland commented that he supports MHS and he also supports a museum in Butte. He noted that some funding sources have been identified for the Butte museum and perhaps the same sources could help MHS. George Everett said the Mainstreet program in Butte is affiliated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Their main goal is to see that historic preservation can contribute to economic development. His interest in this goes back 15 years in helping to preserve and to also restore the historic district in uptown Butte. George noted that he wants to collaborate with neighbors throughout southwest Montana and looks forward to the future collaboration with the MHS.

Mayor James E. Smith presented a letter of support from the City of Helena and noted that the City of Helena pledges their cooperation to the efforts here at 6th and Roberts. The new Heritage Center belongs in the City of Helena. He said the Board of Trustees and the society has a real asset in Director Sims. Mayor Smith commented that Director Sims is the man to move this task forward because he has the vision, the plan, the knowledge, the skills and the abilities.

Lee Holmes presented a letter with many signatures from the Montana Heritage Center Task Force which includes members of Home Town Helena, Lewis and Clark County Leadership, Helena City Leadership, business leaders, educators and Legislators pledging support and resources to promote and build the Montana Heritage Center in the Capital City of Montana.

Dave Gallik stated MHS belongs in Helena. He asked Butte's help for bonding MHS at 6th and Roberts.

Representative Chuck Hunter announced he and other Legislators are ready to roll up their sleeves and work for MHS.

Senator Gallus pledged his support to MHS and their delegation in the bonding bill that is forthcoming and asked for Helena's support for Butte's museum.

Betty Babcock said she is honored to be asked to attend the meeting. She emphasized that the important thing for all of us is to preserve our wonderful Montana treasures and our history for the future generations so they can learn from what we have done in the past. Betty commented she wants everyone to work together so that this museum can be the flagship for the whole state.

Pat Schlauch said it is important is to get the artifacts out to the people of Montana. Pat noted that Butte and Helena will need help with building their museums. Both are Montana projects.

Robert Morgan stated Butte folks and Helena folks have been helping one another for years. He explained that he spent a month and a half in Butte working at the Orphan Girl Mine setting up the first exhibits. Of all the places he worked around the state he said he would rather go back to Butte again. He said let's keep working together to get these projects completed.

Steve Lozar introduced himself stating he is from the Flathead Indian Reservation and is a Tribal Councilman. When there is an issue to discuss in the tribes the council is called together and the issues are discussed. Discussions are approached with a tradition of respect. He said he wants to applaud everyone speaking today because he sees the respectful counsel taken in this meeting. Butte and Helena are also the home to the Salish and the Kootenai people. He said he is very happy to see the tribal traditional passion everyone here has. There have been discussions today about cultures that were damaged and about education and healing and about truth and preserving Montana treasures and history. Steve said he feels confident that what needs to be accomplished will be accomplished and he thanked everyone for working together.

Jim Murry thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting.

CENTRALIZED SERVICES/FINANCIAL REPORT-Denise King

Denise introduced Lainey Taylor as the new Human Resource/Accounting Specialist.

ELECTION OF BOARD OF TRUSTEE OFFICERS

Sharon Lincoln noted that as the Board moves forward into a very challenging and busy year with the new building, fundraising and the next Legislative session it is the proposal of the Nominating Committee and the Executive Board to keep the slate of officers for one more year (2010) exactly as they are at this time.

Motion to Elect Board of Trustee Officers

Sharon Lincoln moved to have Jim Murry continue as President, Jim Utterback to continue as Vice-President and Steve Lozar continue as Secretary for a one year term. She further moved to have Jim Murry, Jim Utterback, Steve Lozar, Shirley Groff, Tom Nygard, and Sharon Lincoln to remain on the Executive Board for one more year. Jack Lepley seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Report

Steve Lozar gave a brief recap of agenda items discussed by the Executive Committee. He stated the new Heritage Center site was confirmed at 6th and Roberts Street. The financial review goal was met at approximately a \$136,000 reduction based on not filling positions as they are vacated. Membership is down at this time but the revenues are staying the same. A new SHPO fee will be proposed and the committee voted to accept the fee increase which will be discussed later on in this meeting. There was a discussion regarding the election of officers. The key issue discussed with the election of new officers is the difficulty of a new group of officers coming on board when the Legislature is in session. There were suggestions regarding personnel matters and the committee looked at changes in dealing with ethics. Steve reported that Crystal Shors updated the committee on review forms being used for the annual assessment of the director. The possibility of a National Advisory Council was reviewed. Establishing an interview committee was discussed and should be in place for the July Board meeting for hiring a part-time fundraising consultant. Steve explained that half of the people appointed to the Coal Trust are appointed by the Board and there are two openings coming up. The venue for the 2011 History Conference was discussed. The conference will be held in conjunction with the University of Montana. Updates will be coming from Susan Near and Kirby Lambert. Publication of the Russell art book will come to pass thanks to the efforts of Jim Court.

Heritage Keepers Award

Ed Smith reported that nominations for the Heritage Keepers Award have closed. There were four new applications. The committee will meet shortly and make their selections. Emails will be sent to the Board to approve the committee's actions.

Finance Committee

Financial schedules were submitted by Denise King. Denise noted that on Page 11 of the handout there is a recap of this quarter and projections against the last quarter. 5% Budget cuts were explained as follows: a number of retirements will take place and there will be a vacancy in the museum program; personal computers will not be replaced (currently MHS is on a four year replacement cycle and this will be moved to a five year replacement cycle). Denise further explained that the Governor's office has reduced fixed costs for agencies and MHS' reduction in fixed costs is \$11,000. SHPO will be giving up their general fund and using their National Park Service grant money. She explained that the mandated 5% reduction has been covered.

25 years of Service to the State of Montana

Richard read a letter from the Board of Trustees and presented a certificate honoring Mary Ann Bannon's 25 years of service at the Montana Historical Society. The Board was invited to attend the retirement celebration with staff after the meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT-Richard Sims

Strategic Plan

Richard reported that the work continues on the Strategic Plan update lead by Susan Near. Susan said that she hopes to have a final plan for the next meeting.

Cultural and Aesthetic Committee Nominees

Richard explained that the Cultural and Aesthetic Committee grants the Coal Trust money statewide. Half of the committee is appointed by the Arts Council and half of the committee is appointed by this Board. There are two vacancies on the MHS side which will cover a museum position and a historic preservation position. Richard said he wasn't able to capture nominees at this time but he will get this accomplished for the next Board meeting.

Architects Report

Richard asked Joe Triem to speak regarding the wrap up report. Joe stated for the record, over half of the architect team is from Montana contrary to press reports. The state architects have invited museum/exhibit experts to work on the team. Schematic design is 20% complete as of this date. Joe explained the ability to make changes still exists. Once the fundraising efforts are successful the team will revisit the schematic design. The physical model is complete. Work continues on the computer generated video and the content will be developed by MHS. Joe stated that all the deliverables will be done by next week. The Board watched the first version of the video. Discussions were held on needed improvements to the video. Richard stated he will continue to work with the video team to present a more realistic and diverse version of the video MHS wants to present. Joe invited the Board to email any suggestions to him which may improve the video. Paul Reichert suggested that MHS and the architect team go for the green rating on the new Heritage Center. Jim Murry further suggested that murals in the background of the video with worker/industry settings reflecting the history of Montana would be appreciated.

Request for Proposals

Proposals will be going out for a fundraising consultant. Susan Near has worked closely with the state procurement office. Interviewing will take place during the July Board meeting. A copy of the RFP is available for Board member review. Jim Murry and Janene Caywood stated they would be interested in the scope of the document. Tom Nygard personally challenged the Board of Trustees to make a statement to the public that the Board is 100% behind the fundraising efforts for the building of the new Heritage Center. Denise said there is a building account set up and MHS is ready to take donations. The donations are tax deductible. Kent Kleinkopf commented that when we go to the next Legislature this Board wants to show they have contributed 100% to the seed money for this effort.

Code Talker Exhibit

Richard announced the exhibit is on display today in the auditorium. He pointed out that this is a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian celebrating the retention of native languages and the warrior tradition as shown mainly through the Code Talker experience in two world wars. At the suggestion of George Horse Capture two of our own banners have been added which are titled, "Cultural Warriors" and "Montana's Warrior Tradition". There has been wonderful press

through Tom Cook's efforts and good success in fundraising. Richard stated this will be an active traveling exhibit all through the spring, summer and fall and if there is enough off reservation interest, as is currently happening, he is talking with the Smithsonian about another year of holding onto this exhibit. Steve Lozar commented that there is real excitement growing about this exhibit. There is discussion about building a monument in the center of the Tribal complex to memorialize all of the Tribal members that have served in the military. Families on his reservation are starting to collect military artifacts from their own families to bring into the Tribal museum. Steve Lozar and George Horse Capture emphasize the importance of opening the exhibit on a reservation.

Richard listed the following donors: The Smithsonian gave \$5,000; \$8,000 has been received from Wal-mart (allowing \$1,000 to go to each Tribal community to help with celebrations being held in connection with the exhibit); Janene and Milo Caywood gave \$1,000; Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation gave \$2,500; and Tom Cook has gathered money from several Veteran groups.

MONTANA HERITAGE COMMISSION

Paul Reichert presented a fact sheet as a handout for the Board's review. He explained that the fact sheet was presented at a public meeting in the community. The Commission has determined that site clean-up and prioritization is needed to make Virginia and Nevada Cities more user friendly, easier to interpret, improve efficiency, reduce safety hazards, and raise additional funds. By law, any funds raised are held in trust fund accounts to care for and maintain remaining properties. In order to improve access to the site and improve the care of property the need exists to determine where the focus will be for limited financial resources.

Paul announced that the Commission has decided to suspend steam train service for 2010 and will launch a private fundraising effort to bring back service. The Montana History Foundation has created a fund the Alder Gulch Railroad and Steam Train. He further stated that the Commission has authorized the sale of select real estate and personal property. Specific lists will be developed of property that may be sold. This list will be evaluated and put through the ARM rule process and brought to the full Commission at a public meeting. Paul said it is in the rules that the Director of the Historical Society has to supply a written comment on the sale of real estate. If this should move forward and the Commission approves the sale, the request will go to the State Land Board. Richard reminded the Board that Jim Utterback and Steve Lozar are on the Virginia and Nevada Cities committee.

PROGRAM MANAGERS REPORTS

OUTREACH AND INTERPRETATION PROGRAM REPORT-Kirby Lambert

Kirby announced that April is volunteer appreciation month. Traditionally MHS has a luncheon for the volunteers but this year MHS traded the luncheon for lots of hard work by the staff. An old fashion high tea was held in the capitol rotunda in appreciation of all the dedicated MHS volunteers.

The 2011 History Conference planning is ahead of schedule. The Doubletree Hotel in Missoula has been contracted.

MUSEUM PROGRAM-Jennifer Bottomly-O'Looney

Jennifer explained that the Museum Program staff has developed a work plan which will keep them busy with exhibits for the next three years. Among the things completed along with the O & I staff is the children's interactive exhibit. A component of the exhibit will be changed annually so it will be a changing exhibit.

The Jay Laber sculptural piece has arrived. Jennifer noted that if anyone would like to see the piece it is temporarily housed at the Scriver Center. A site plan is presently being developed to be submitted to the Capital Complex Advisory Council.

Loan Request

The Brooklyn New York Museum is launching a major traveling exhibit titled "Tipi of the Great Plains" which will feature plains Indian history culture. Jennifer explained that the museum is requesting a loan of a Winchester Lever Action Repeating Carbine, Model 1873. The loan dates are from February, 2011 – May, 2012. The staff recommends approval with the standard \$100.00 loan fee.

Motion on the Brooklyn New York Loan Request

Tom Nygard moved approval of the loan request by the Brooklyn Museum. Jim Utterback seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PUBLICATIONS-Molly Holz

Molly stated the latest issue of the magazine should have arrived. She said a copy of the 2011 membership is being passed around. A generous donation was received from MEA-MFT to help support the publication of the calendar. Molly announced the magazine recently received the Western Writers of America Spur Finalists Award and the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

"Montana Moments" by Ellen Baumler is a compilation of interesting pieces of Montana history. They were originally developed as radio scripts. Molly said it is called light reading. Staff is working on a special issue celebrating and commemorating the 100th anniversary of Glacier National Park and it is being made possible in part by a national park service grant and lots of hard work by museum staff and Glacier Park to archives.

Molly asked the Board to give a round of applause to Jim Court and Lee Rostad for their hard work in getting donations for the new Russell Art book. A \$100,000 donation to MHS was received to publish a large colored book. The book will be produced by the MHS press.

Sharon Lincoln asked Molly if all the paintings Charlie Russell made as he advanced through his career will be used in the book. Molly stated she hadn't heard of this idea as of yet. She said the

content of the book keeps evolving. Sharon commented she has discussed this with Lee Rostad and this certainly would set the book apart from others. Molly explained that Kirby Lambert will be writing a comprehensive essay and all of Russell's paintings, sculptures, and letters will be included in the book. Lee Rostad asked that Bob Morgan be consulted. Molly said the book will be dedicated to Bob Morgan.

RESEARCH CENTER-Molly Kruckenberg

Molly said the Research Program has been busy giving away summer research fellowships. She said two Dave Walter Research Fellowships were awarded aimed at promoting local history in Montana. Molly asked for a vote by the Board on the Stuart MacKenzie deaccession list.

Motion on the Stuart MacKenzie Deaccession List

Jim Utterback moved to approve the Stuart MacKenzie Deaccession List as presented by the Research Center. Lee Rostad seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE-Mark Baumler

Mark presented handouts to the Board explaining the need for fees for conducting file search requests. He also presented a summary of a file search request which was received over the past three years. He visited with the committee about the fee need and they looked at what other states are charging. Mark stated he feels the fees are fair and they will help generate the revenue needed. SHPO proposes to establish an Enterprise Fund to charge fees for the file search requests. Money generated from the new fee will be used to implement, maintain and further develop the service in conjunction with other funding sources. A flat fee of \$25.00 per individual project request for three or fewer sections of land, plus an additional \$5.00 for each additional section over three is appropriate and would be supported by most users with the understanding the fee would support and enhance upgrades to the state's antiquities database. Mark submitted a fee structure and the anticipated revenue.

Jim Murry noted that the Executive Committee recommended support of this recommendation. Sharon Lincoln commented it is critical for SHPO to receive these fees in order to get their computer system up to date.

Motion to Charge a Fee for File Searches

Steve Lozar moved approval of the fee structure as proposed by the SHPO office. Jim Utterback seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Richard reported that he and Kent Kleinkopf met with Jim Foley to begin exploring access to their alumni mailing list for MHS membership promotional purposes which led to a larger discussion of partnerships campus wide which led to a phone call with the on campus museum

director. Kent stated MHS isn't the only one with building dreams. The University of Montana has a rather large project in their future also. Jim Foley has an invite to attend the next Board meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Court stated MHS needs more members. He has asked Beth Cargo to run a report of members by zip codes and also asked each Board member to encourage everyone they know to join.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Board will meet July 15th and 16th.

Adjournment: Steve Lozar closed the Board meeting with a prayer. Adjournment was at 12:05 p.m.